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Atty. Dkt. No. MRKS/0032.C1

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 83-93, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for positioning a tong proximate a tubular at a well center, comprising:
an extendable structure, the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure;
an actuating member for extending or retracting the extendable structure relative to the well center, the extendable structure and the actuating member having substantially parallel longitudinal axes; and
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure, wherein the mounting assembly includes a bearer and the bearer is coupled to a single location of a support member on a drilling tower.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the extendable structure is telescopic.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the telescopically extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the telescopically extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.

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7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.
8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the mounting assembly further comprises:
 ~~a base; and~~
 a carriage pivotally attached to the bearer ~~base~~, wherein a portion of the outer barrel is disposed on the carriage.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the tong is movably attached to the inner barrel.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a clamp assembly for securing the outer barrel to the carriage.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the outer barrel is movable between a first position and a second position relative to the carriage.
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly further comprises:
 ~~a base; and~~
 a carriage pivotally attached to the bearer ~~base~~, wherein a portion of the outer barrel is disposed on the carriage.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a clamping assembly for securing the extendable structure to the carriage.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the clamping assembly is releasable connected to the carriage.

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15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.
20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a motor actuable to adjust the position of the extendable structure with respect to said mounting assembly.
21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuating member comprises a piston and cylinder assembly.
22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is at least partially disposed on the extendable structure.
23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is used to move the extendable structure horizontally.
24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tong is movably attached to the extendable structure.

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25-49. Cancelled.

50. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for positioning a tong for making up or breaking out tubulars, comprising:

an extendable structure, the extendable structure having a variable length and the tong capable of making up or breaking out tubulars attached to one end of the extendable structure;

a motive assembly having an extendable member for changing the length of the extendable structure; and

~~a support beam~~ a mounting assembly for coupling the extendable structure to at most one location on a drilling tower.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the tong is movably attached.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable structure is movable in at least two planes.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein the extendable structure is slidable along the mounting assembly between a first position and a second position.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the extendable structure is movable in at least two planes.

56. Cancelled.

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57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable structure is telescopic.

58-59. Cancelled.

60. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable structure.

61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein a center of mass of the tong is substantially aligned with an axis of the extendable structure.

62-69. Cancelled.

70. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting a first tubular to a second tubular proximate a well center, comprising:

providing an apparatus for connecting the tubulars, the apparatus comprising:

a tong adapted to connect the tubulars; and

an extendable structure for positioning the tong;

an extendable actuating member for extending or retracting the extendable structure; and

a mounting assembly having a bearer adapted to couple the apparatus to a single location on a drilling tower;

positioning the apparatus on a drilling tower;

actuating the extendable structure to move the tong toward the well center;

engaging the first and second tubulars with the tong; and

connecting the first tubular to the second tubular.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising attaching a support member on the drilling tower.

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72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 71, ~~further comprising coupling the extendable structure~~ wherein the apparatus is coupled to the support member.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein connecting the first tubular to the second tubular comprises rotating the first tubular relative to the second tubular.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly is clamped to the support member.

75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly is selectively attached to the support member.

76. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for positioning a tong for making up or breaking out tubulars, comprising:

an extendable structure, the extendable structure having a variable length and the tong for making up or breaking out tubulars attached to one end of the extendable structure;

a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable structure, the motive assembly and the extendable structure having substantially parallel axis; and

a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure, wherein the mounting assembly is adapted to couple the extendable structure to a single location of a support beam disposed above a rig floor.

77. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the support beam is selectively attached to a drilling tower.

78. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the mounting assembly is clamped to the support beam.

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79. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the support beam is a convenient beam support.

80. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the support beam is located between 2 meters and 3 meters above the rig floor

81. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the tong is movably attached.

82. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

83. – 93. Cancelled.

Please add the following new claims:

94. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the support member is a beam of the drilling tower.

95. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein a first end of the actuating member is coupled to the outer barrel and a second end is coupled to the inner barrel.

96. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the single location is a location on a support beam.

97. (New) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the extendable structure is clamped to the support beam.

98. (New) The apparatus of claim 97, wherein the extendable structure is clamped using at least one bolt.

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99. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein actuating the extendable structure comprises extending the actuating member, thereby extending the extendable structure.